

The CHACONIA The TTAO Newsletter

August 2018 Volume 9, Number 3

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TTAO Committees

Chairpersons

Education

Dianna Pierre & Ingrid John-Baptiste

PR & Communication

Brenda Agard Alleyne & Carol Joseph

Membership

Molly Taitt

Social

Ingrid John-Baptiste & Rosanna & Trevor Lashley

Recreation

Carmen & Earlvin (Joe) Dyer

From the President's Pen

Greetings:

Summer of 2018 - too hot for some, simply delightful for those who foresee what November could bring. The TTAO, as always, has lived up to its social expectations for the year. The Spring Fling on May 12, 2018 prepped us for the lazy, hazy days of summer. Approximately 100 members and friends gathered at the Ottawa Masonic Centre for a wonderful event. The Hall was simply but effectively decorated in warm spring colours to provide a seasonal ambiance. D.J. David Supersound went to the "Full Extreme" with his music and Limer's Paradise had us all returning to the food counter to partake of the delicious pelau, doubles and pholourie. All of these elements went towards making a really great "FETE"!!!

On June 21, 2018 the Trinidad and Tobago Night at the Races was held. The evening was well attended and a new seating plan kept all of our guests in the same general area, which created an atmosphere of warmth and togetherness. Our CARIB representative, who is one of our most generous sponsors, joined us for the evening and ensured that his brew was available at the bar. It was truly an evening that promoted Trinidad & Tobago with the sounds of Nepean Pan Harmonics Steelband and some of our local cuisine served at the buffet. There were great door prizes but many of our patrons were unable to hear the results of the draw, so they are published later on in this newsletter.

On Sunday, July 29, 2018 a number of TTAO members and friends attended the Family Fun Day at Petrie Island, held in collaboration with the Club S.O.C.C.A Kites 4 Cancer fundraiser. As usual, a great time was had by all, under a brilliant, sunny sky. One observation was that the adults seemed to enjoy themselves far in excess of the children when participating in the scheduled games, which mind you, were specifically designed for kids. I guess there is no distinction between kids and the young at heart when it comes to this event!

Scheduled for Sunday, August 19, 2018 at Jean Pigott Place, Ottawa City Hall, is TrinbaGo Day 2018. This is the final social activity of our organisation for 2017-2018. The TTAO is striving to showcase the products and services of Trinidad and Tobago as well as local products and services that are utilised by members of our diaspora within the National Capital Region. Every effort is being made to capitalise on the success of TrinbaGo Day 2017, and while we may not host as many as 9,000 visitors, every effort will be made to attract a very large and diverse audience. TrinbaGo Day will be an extravaganza of the culture of

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 Trinidad and Tobago, with cultural performances, Trini-centric cuisine, and interesting displays in participating booths. More detail is available further on in the newsletter.

The work of the 2017-2018 Executive will culminate at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Friday, September 28, 2018 at the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission (TTHC), 200 First Ave, Ottawa.

The 2017-2018 fiscal year has been a productive one for the TTAO. We were able to extend our collaborative efforts to encompass some mainstream organisations, like the National Arts Centre, for the Calypso Rose project in February, and the upcoming performance of the West-Can Performing Company of Montreal, at TrinbaGo Day 2018. The TTAO has maintained its past relationships with one its largest and most consistent sponsors CARIB, as well as the TTHC. Through the efforts of the TTHC, the TTAO was once again able to obtain sponsorship from the management of the Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort in Tobago for the Trinidad and Tobago Night at the Races. We were also privileged to partner with the Friends of Serviam to sponsor another academic scholarship under the auspices of the TTAO's C.L.R. James Scholarship Award 2018. Later in this newsletter, acknowledgement of all of our sponsors will be made.

On your behalf, I am extending a big thank you to the hard-working Executive and Committee members, indicated below.

Ingrid John-Baptiste (TTAO President)

TTAO Executive and Committees

A newly elected TTAO Executive for 2018-2019 and committees, will be kept busy as always, planning another diverse and engaging year for you.

The TTAO has been in existence since 1983. The mission of the association is to promote and maintain the integrity of our cultural heritage and assist with the continuing development of nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

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Your 2017-2018 Executive:

President: Ingrid John-Baptiste
Vice President: Dianna Pierre
Treasurer: Anne-Marie Bostic

Secretary: Rosanna Lashley
Asst. Secretary: Judy Madhosingh

Floor Members: Brenda Agard Alleyne, Carmen Dyer, Trevor

Lashley

Education Committee:

Dianna Pierre (Co-Chair)
Ingrid John-Baptiste (Co-Chair)

Social Committee:

Ingrid John-Baptiste (Co-Chair)
Rosanna & Trevor Lashley (Co-chair)
Lena Baptiste
Pat Cholmondeley
David & Anne-Marie Bostic
Carmen & Earlvin (Joe) Dyer
Dianna & Tony Pierre
Molly & Maurice Taitt
Suzanne & Errol Whittier

Membership:

Molly Taitt (Chair) Brenda Agard Alleyne Lena Baptiste

PR & Communications:

Brenda Agard Alleyne (Co-Chair) Carol Joseph (Co-Chair) Judy Madhosingh

Recreation Committee:

Carmen & Earlvin (Joe) Dyer (Co-Chairs) Pat Cholmondeley Judy Madhosingh Glen Mason

Webmaster:

Rose Leblanc

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 We are always looking for participation on these committees, which will increase chances of success. You are more than welcome to volunteer and/or share your ideas so please contact us if any peaks your interest.

Night at the Races Door Prize Winners

Greetings to All:

On behalf of the Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa, thanks again for your support and participation in our Night at the Races event.

Because of the level of noise at the event, it was difficult to announce the draw for the door prizes. The process for the draw was to turn the tickets in a spinning barrel. After each draw, a different patron was asked to draw from the barrel.

Here is a list of the winners:

GIFT DESCRIPTION	DONOR	WINNER
Trini Basket	TTAO	CHET PERSAUD
Shaklee Cleaning Products	Starr Levans	APET LUAL
Carib Cooler Bag with Carib Product (2)	CARIB – Horace Bhopalsingh	CAROL JOSEPH & BERNICE TAITT- FRANK
Customised Towel	Rose Leblanc	LYNETTE HARPER
Customised Apron	Rose Leblanc	BEVERLY IFILL
Three Night Hotel Stay	Magdalena Grand Beach & Golf Resort	FAIZ MOHAMMED

The "Guess the number of mints in the bottle" game was won by Brenda Agard Alleyne and George Brown.

The "NAC voucher for two complimentary tickets" to attend (1) of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, English Theatre, French Theatre, Dance or NAC Presents presentations was won by Anne-Marie Bostic.

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Upcoming TTAO Activities 2017-2018

TRINBAGO DAY 2018

The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa (TTAO) will be holding its annual TrinbaGo Day on August 19, 2018. This event presents an opportunity for Trinidad and Tobago nationals to celebrate and showcase their culture and heritage to the wider Canadian community.

This year, the TTAO will once again feature products and services of the twin island as well as those that are of interest to the diaspora within the National Capital Region. For your enjoyment and entertainment, the following will be featured:



- ✓ Trini-centric cuisine, courtesy Mugena Enterprises
- ✓ The scintillating sounds of the Nepean Pan Harmonics Steelband
- √ The authentic moves of Shefali's BollywoodDance Pro
- Dazzling performances by West-Can Folk Performing Company of Montreal, the cultural ambassador of Afro-Caribbean song and dance for 40 years, brought to you in partnership with the National Arts Centre (you might see a Moko Jumbie or two)

We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends at the Jean Pigott Hall, Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue W, on August 19, 2018 from noon to 7:00 p.m. Admission is FREE, but donations will be accepted. We assure you that you won't be disappointed!

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TTAO Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission, 200 First Ave, Ottawa on Friday, **September 28 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, September 21, 2018 to tandtassociation@gmail.com or call 613-834-1718.



Reminder

As part of its succession strategy, the current Executive is making a special push for millennials to become members of the TTAO. The membership fee is only \$20 for individuals and \$40 for a family (which includes children 17 years of age and younger). We encourage those who are not members or those who have not yet renewed their membership to do so today. We have tried to make the process easier so although cheques, money orders and cash are still acceptable, payment via *Interac e-Transfer* is also an option to our Gmail account at tandtassociation@gmail.com. As well, the membership form is fillable online and can also be sent as an attachment to our Gmail account.



Scholarship C.L.R. James Scholarship Award 2018

This year, in addition to the C.L.R. James Scholarship awarded by the TTAO, the "Friends of Serviam", an organisation described as a collection of friends with ties to the Caribbean and Ursuline Sisters, has offered a scholarship for \$750.00, to be awarded under the auspices of the C.L.R. James Scholarship.

The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa has determined the winners of both scholarships and an announcement will be made at TrinbaGo Day 2018 on August 19, 2018.

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Proud TTAO Moment...

On Saturday, June 19, 2018, Dr. Sade Francois was the guest of honour at a dinner held to celebrate her success. Sade is a past recipient of the C.L.R James Scholarship Award, so it was an extremely proud TTAO moment. She pursued her BSc at McGill University in Montreal and is a recent medical school graduate from St. George's University in Grenada.

In keeping with her commendable achievements, Sade has now launched the Dr. Sade Francois Scholarship Award for young women of colour. She has committed to donating \$1,000.00 to the TTAO's C.L.R James Scholarship Fund for 2018-2019. Not only will she be giving back to the community but it is also in recognition of the challenges that her most avid supporter, her mother Joycelyn George Francois, faced as a single parent to educate her and see her dream realized.

Dr. Francois is currently doing her residency at the Children's Hospital of Illinois in Peoria, Illinois, where she hopes to specialise in the area of Pediatrics.

We of the TTAO offer Dr. Sade Francois our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a successful professional and personal journey.

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Dr. Sade Francois

Inspiration Corner...



"Never be ashamed of where you come from."

These inspiring words from Trinidadian university graduate Andre Blackburn are words he has lived by after completing a Master's program in Latin American studies from Oxford University earlier this month.

Blackburn said to LoopTT that he never expected his Facebook post to go viral after it amassed over 1,200 shares and thousands of comments. "I really did not expect my post to be shared so widely on Facebook. I am truly humbled by the responses and messages of encouragement that I have received from the public."

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 Blackburn is urging young people to be proud of their origins as he said he used to feel ashamed of his past and often hid the fact that he went to a junior secondary school. My advice to young adults is never be ashamed of where you come from. Embrace it and wear it with pride. It may just inspire others who went to the same school as you did, who come from the same neighbourhood, or same socio-economic background. "For years, I was ashamed to say that I went to a junior secondary school or to reveal that my mom worked at a fast food restaurant. Somewhere along the line, I realized that not only did my circumstances make me unique, but they also encouraged me to keep pushing and striving for betterment," he said.

Blackburn's inspiring post told of his journey and struggles, including the fact that this success came after his second attempt to study at the prestigious university. Yesterday, I graduated with a Master's degree from Oxford University. If I was told that this could ever be, I wouldn't have believed it. What a journey it has been. From Mt Hope Junior Secondary, to Barataria Secondary Comprehensive School, to Sixth Form Government to UWI. The journey was not easy. Many tears, many sacrifices, and many struggles along the way. This was my second offer to study at Oxford, since I had to turn down the first one a few years ago for financial reasons. This time around, I received a partial scholarship, which covered my tuition fees. Timing, and persistence really matter.

"This degree and time studying here was no walk in the park. I had to face all of my insecurities and demons head on. Those voices in your head that tell you, you're not good enough, you don't deserve to be here etc. were loud." "And at times, they drowned out the truth: that I worked hard to be here and was accepted (twice) because I was more than deserving, he added."

"While still a work in progress, I am now able to quiet those thoughts. To do so, it took counselling and surrounding myself with people who build me up and uplift me. In this regard, I am indebted to my friends at home who checked in with me regularly, who read my essays and who encouraged me to push on. I am also grateful to my friends in Oxford, who became family and who by their own example helped me to realize my fullest potential," he said.

He also thanked his family and friends who supported him throughout his journey. "I would not be here today without my family, specifically my parents, who made many sacrifices and did the best they could with what they had at their disposal. Special shout out to my mom, (who tells

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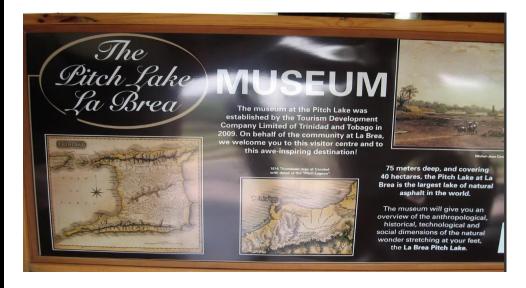
The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 everyone I am at Harvard, as it's all the same to her lol). I've seen this woman turn water into wine, make a little go a long way, swallow her pride and do whatever it took to provide for me and sisters. "I also remember all of the teachers and mentors along the way who saw something in me that I couldn't see in myself. I appreciate all of them. "I am excited about the present and even more about the future," said the inspiring young scholar.

Blackburn said the nine-month program covers the socio-economic, political and historical landscape of Latin American from independence to present day. Moving forward, he will be starting an internship with a Latin American and Caribbean news and consultancy agency in London from August. He said he will be seeking opportunities to work in the NGO arena or international organizations that do work on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Excerpt from LoopTT.com

Did You Know?

Since 2009 there has been a museum at the Pitch Lake. Who knew?



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TrinbaGo Humour...

A man meet me this carnival, wine up on me and ask me for meh digits. Two weeks later I see him down town picking up bottles, so I say... I thought you told me you are a lawyer? He say, I am, I does pick up bottles to make a case



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Sponsorship...

Thank you to our many sponsors who have contributed significantly to the TTAO's success in meeting its objectives for 2017-2018.

AMH Style Aylmer Electronics
Baccanalle Black History Ottawa
Carib Club S.O.C.C.A

Conrad Thomas D.J. David Supersound

Gifty's Jaku Konbit Limer's Paradise Massive Vibes

Mugena Enterprises Mytek Power Tools Service

Naz Deen Rose LeBlanc

Savannah Afro Caribbean Products Starr Levans (Shaklee Products)

Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort Trinidad and Tobago High Commission

Friends of Serviam

Whenever and whereever possible, please lend your support to these businesses and organisations, who wholeheartedly, give back to the communities they serve.

In Memoriam...

The TTAO lost one of its long standing and faithful members and a stalwart in the community, Dr. Andrew Solomon, on May 19, 2018 at the age of 82. He was the loving husband of Huldah for 53 years, a devoted father of 3 and a cherished grandfather of 5.

Originally from Belmont, Andrew immigrated to Canada in the 1950's

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 and first settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba where he met and married Huldah. There they joined and strengthened a network of West Indian expats, several of whom remain dear friends today. Andrew completed his BSc. and M.A.Sc. in Microbiology in Winnipeg and subsequently completed Medical School in Marseille, France. He returned to Canada to complete his Canadian medical certification in several provinces, finally settling in Ottawa, where he maintained a private practice up until a few years ago. He and Huldah were active and supportive in the community, including the TTAO, Harambee and the Black Canadian Scholarship Fund. He was a shoulder and counsellor to many and took pride in those that he mentored, including a subsequent generation of "Dr. Solomons" through his nieces and a younger cousin.

He will be remembered for his warmth, wit, intelligence and great pride in his family. His love and guidance will be missed and he will be remembered for his unequivocal work ethic, perseverance, eccentricity, and passion for painting and fly fishing.

The Executive and members of the TTAO, extend sincere condolences to the friends and family of Dr. Andrew Solomon.

Member's Corner.....

To enhance what the TTAO can do for the community, we need your support, so why not become a member? New members are always welcome! Does an event or committee peak your interest? If you are 16 years of age or older looking to get involved, then consider becoming a member and joining a committee that interests you the most.



Reminder

The annual membership for the association runs from **September 1st to August 31st**. **Your membership for 2017-2018 is ending August 31, 2018.** Please think about renewing your membership, if you have not already done so.

TTAO membership form

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The TTAO's website & Facebook page

You are encouraged to visit our <u>website</u>. The improved site provides updated and current information on Trinidad & Tobago and brings you information on the upcoming activities of the TTAO and other sister organizations and details of past events.

Our webmaster Rose LeBlanc ensures that ttao.ca, with its artistically inviting look, offers authentic and up-to-date information.

Please remember to like our Facebook page. Carol would be more than happy to see the number of likes increase.

Our Facebook page is at https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Association-of-Ottawa-TTAO/157550578878.

Your feedback and comments are always appreciated.

Feedback.....

Interested in contributing to the next newsletter? Would you like to provide comments or suggestions to the TTAO? Send us an email, write us a letter or put a posting on our Facebook page and tell us what you think!

TRINBAGO DAY

